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EXAMINER

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

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**Technology Center 2600**

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 9

Application Number: 09/359,523  
Filing Date: July 23, 1999  
Appellant(s): ACHARYA ET AL.

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Fred G. Pruner, Jr.  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed January 29, 2004.

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**(1) *Real Party in Interest***

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences***

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences is contained in the brief.

**(3) *Status of Claims***

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) *Status of Amendments After Final***

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) *Summary of Invention***

The summary of the invention contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) *Issues***

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

**(7) *Grouping of Claims***

The appellant's state of the grouping of claims is correct.

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**(8) *Claims Appealed***

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(9) *Prior Art of Record***

The following is a listing of the prior art of record relied upon in the rejection of claims under appeal.

4,335,397	Tamura	6-1982
6,421,083	Takakura	7-2002

**(10) *Grounds of Rejection***

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). The rejections are set forth in prior Office Action, Paper No. 4.

**(11) *Response to Argument***

**A. The Appellant argues that Takakura neither teaches nor suggests that the table memory is rewritten based on a value previously stored in the table memory (page 10, lines 18-20).**

In response, the Appellant's claims do not recite a limitation of the table memory being rewritten. See Section C for further treatment.

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**B. The Appellant argues that Tamura's system is an "on the fly" system based on the levels of red and green components; and thus, Tamura fails to teach or suggest adjusting the red and blue components based on a computed white color balance (page 11, line 21- page 12, line 2).**

In response, Tamura teaches that color difference signals are adjusted with gains stored in gain-control circuits 11R and 11B, which reads on a computed white color balance (Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 14-20). The color difference signals adjusted according to gain control circuits 11R and 11B are then compared to high and low threshold voltages to determine if the red and blue components require further adjusting (col. 4, lines 21-25, 46-54). Therefore, Tamura does teach or suggest adjusting the red and blue components based on a computed white color balance.

**C. The Appellant argues that modifying Tamura so that Tamura's system incorporates the level-specific offset correction of Takakura means that the window comparators 7R and 7B and counters 8R and 8B of Tamura are replaced with the level detectors and table memory depicted in Fig. 4 of Takakura.**

In response, the Appellant's statement misrepresents the office's combination of the references. The office's combination of Tamura with Takakura does not replace the window comparators 7R and 7B and counters 8R and 8B of Tamura with the level-specific offset correction of Takakura. Rather, the table memory of Takakura is substituted for the gain-control circuits 11R and 11B of Tamura. The up/down counters of Tamura suggest incremental adjustments to the red and blue components. Takakura teaches a table memory with table data corresponding to readout addresses (col. 4, lines 61-67). It is well-known in the art of image

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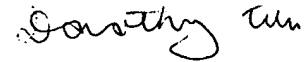
signal processing to use look-up tables to store correction values, and it is also well-known that there are incremental differences between stored values in adjacent entries of the table. Thus, in the combination of Tamura with Takakura, the adjusted color difference signals are compared with high and low threshold voltages in the window comparators 7R and 7B, and the up/down counters 8A and 8B increment or decrement the address used to address the table memory that stores correction values, thereby reading a different value from the memory. Therefore, regarding the claim language, Tamura in view of Takakura teach that when the white color balance of the color difference signals is unsatisfactory, the address used to address the table memory is changed to access a new entry, and hence, a new correction value, which reads on “modifying the values in the look-up table.”

Furthermore, Tamura teaches an analog camera system. Takakura teaches a digital camera system, and Takakura was filed on March 25, 1997, before the Appellant’s filing date. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to update the analog system of Tamura with the digital components, i.e. the table memory, of Takakura. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to take advantage of the improved processing time and reliability of digital components over analog ones.

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For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy Wu

ac

April 7, 2004

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